

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 16, 2003, the Examiner rejected pending claims 9, 10, 16 and 17 as being unpatentable over Shimizu et al. in view of Goldman. In response, Applicant has canceled claims 10, 16 and 17 and has amended claim 9 to more clearly distinguish the present invention from the prior art. For the reasons explained below, Applicant now believes the application to be in condition for allowance.

Applicant agrees that the hole punching system used by the present invention is well known in the art. A significant difference between Applicant's invention and the prior art is its ability to punch holes in a web at predetermined intervals automatically and without the need for the web to be stopped. It moves continuously and the holes are punched at the appropriate spot. In contrast, the Shimizu et al. patent discloses a process that requires the web to be stopped every time a mold is applied to it. The movement of the film must be stopped for about 5 seconds. See column 4, lines 46-52.

Applicant has amended claim 9 to describe an apparatus that has a computer attached to an optical encoder. The encoder monitors the number of revolutions made by one of the rollers over which the web moves. The computer is programmed to actuate a solenoid and causing a hole to be punched in the web after a certain number of revolutions have been made by the roller. A steel ball is used to punch the hole because a steel ball is capable of rolling just prior to and directly after punching the hole. This allows a hole to be punched in the web without tearing the web while it continues to move uninterrupted.

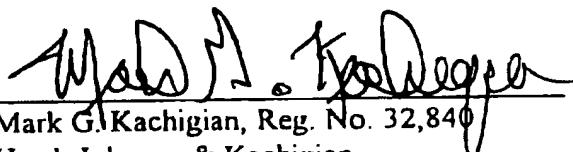
The present invention allows holes to be punched at precise intervals while a web or film moves continuously. Another advantage is that holes may be punched at precise intervals regardless

of the speed at which the web or film moves. If for some reason the speed of the film or web is not constant or slows down or speeds up, the positioning of the holes will not be affected.

Enclosed is a Petition For One-Month Extension of Time along with a check in the amount of \$55.00 to cover the government filing fee.

It is believed that the foregoing is fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action. It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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